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COLLECTORS'

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THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(*Continued.*)

The Amethyst, which has been known from the earliest days of Greece and Rome, and was employed for sacerdotal purposes among the Jews, is also a species of the extensive genus, quartz. The highly transparent, colorless varieties of quartz go by the name of rock crystals. The finest Amethysts are found in the cavities of rocks in Dauphine, Switzerland, Tyrol, the Pyrenees, Hungary, Siberia, Brazil, Madagascar, Ceylon, India and Persia.

The Amethyst comprises the violet blue varieties of quartz generally crystalized as pyramids on the exterior of rocks. The uniting planes of the prismatic portions are frequently marked by undulating lines, and all specimens, thus arranged, are now termed Amethysts.

This stone varies from transparent to translucent; is of a virtreous lustre; and on the same specimen is often a dark violet and nearly colorless. It scratches white glass, strikes fire with steel, but yields to the file. Under the compound blowpipe it parts with its color.

The blue color of this stone is belived to be caused by peroxide of iron. The German chemist, Heintz, fonnd a very dark-tinted Brazilian Amethyst become colorless, when subjected to 250 degrees of heat, and as it contained, at most, only 0.01 per cent. of manganese, he decided that the latter could not be the coloring principle. From various other experiments, he concluded that organic matter could not produce the color, but that, most probably, it was owing to the peroxide of iron.

The finest violet Amethysts come from Siberia, Persia, India and Ceylon. The Scottish Highlands were formerly distinguished for producing the cairngorm, a highly prized brown or yellow species.

It is sometimes cut in the form of a brilliant, and when set is supplied with a blue or red foil in case it is pale, but when deep-colored it requ res no artificial assistance. Though used in almost all descriptions of jewelry, it shows best in necklaces.

The Amethyst is no longer prized so highly as once. And yet, when large-sized and intense and uniform in color, it is greatly valued still, and well-cut stones of one carat are worth from three to five dollars, and so on in proportion to their bulk and tint.

The Amethyst may be imitated very closely with paste, so closely that the imitation is distinguished with great difficulty from the real. The artificial gem, however, is somewhat heavier than the genuine, on account of the metallic oxides which enter into its composition.

(*To be continued.*)

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E M. JR.

NEW SERIES No. 1.

"*Coincidences.*"

Coincidences have always been a source of wonder and speculation with certain people of superstitious instincts, and many of these wonderful circumstances that occur so peculiarly to produce a similarity of incidents are indeed remarkable. In conducting the coin business for a number of years, we have so often had occasion to remark the occurrence of incidents that coincide so strangely, that we have concluded to group together a few of the most interesting for the amusement of our readers. Upon one occasion, while engaged in the coin trade, a young, ruddy-complexioned, fine-looking man entered the store and, taking a box about twelve inches square from under his arm, requested to know if we wanted to purchase eggs. Supposing the youth to be a dealer in produce, we asked the price per dozen.

"They are not hens' eggs, they're birds' eggs," said the new comer.

Sure enough, upon opening the box, there was displayed, resting on soft cotton, eggs of every variety of size and color, some beautifully spotted and freckled, some white, green, yellow, red, brown; others exhibiting tints of cerulean blue; in fact, a representation of eggs throughout the line of feathered songsters, ranging from the size of a pea to that of a small-sized pin cushion. Snuggled in one corner of the box was a birds' nest, containing three diminutive eggs of the robin. How suggestive of roguery—not to call it by a harsher name—is the closing words of the last sentence, and this suggestion produced at the time the following dialogue:

Dealer.—"A robin's nest, is it? We have heard of robbing a birds' nest, and remember our early lessons of the cruelty of such proceedings, but *somebody* has taken nest, eggs and all."

Youth—"Yes, sir, I captured that nest in a clump of bushes, and I collected all these eggs."

Dealer.—"Science has its votaries, and the latter find excuses, no doubt, for making forays on the poor birds, and snatching away the warm nests with the little embryo warblers, for the purpose of enriching their cabinets, but the cruelty of the thing is apparent."

Youth—"Cruelty? I suppose you would call it 'cruelty' to kill snakes?"

Dealer.—"Ah! that is not a parallel case. Snakes are a terror to young and old, and the destruction of all the snakes in the world would never recompense the loss of one human being whose lifeblood has been poisoned by contact with the villanous vipers."

Youth.—(Mysteriously searching around the cotton in the box.)—"Now I agree with you, and here I have a snake's egg. Do you know I had an awful hunt for that egg. I travelled the woods, swamps and creeks for a whole day and night, and killed fourteen black snakes before I got that egg."

We gazed on the oblong, yellow egg, which our young egg collector exhibited, with a shudder, ruminating on the intellect and admiring the misapplied perseverance of the person who could coolly go snake hunting to capture eggs to captivate the lover of this peculiar science. Suffice it to say, we purchased the eggs and nest, including the ugly shaped egg of the black snake. Our youth left the store with the proceeds of the sale of the duplicates, and we had occasion to visit the post office on mail business soon after. In passing down Fifth street, below Arch, and while directly in front of the "Thomas Building," we were hailed by Lawyer T, who wished to enquire, if, in the course of our hunt among curiosities, etc, we ever came across a birds' nest. We informed Mr. T., that we had, not one half hour since, purchased the very thing he desired. Mr. T., promised to call and obtain the nest, and no doubt agrees with the writer that, in all his experience as a lawyer, he knows not of a more wonderful instance of a peculiar want so immed ately and strangely supplied.

(To be continued.)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(Continued.)

JAMES I, 1603.

Obverse.—On his crown and half crown, this king appears on horseback, with a drawn sword in his right hand. The other coins have his bust, except the half penny, which has a port-cullis like that of Elizabeth, from which it is only distinguished by the M . M over it. The half penny of his second coinage has a rose, without any legend, and the penny the same, but with a legend, and the half groat has the rose, crowned. The other coins have his bust, with the numerals VI and XII, six pence and twelve pence.

Reverse.—The reverse of all the coins of James I is the arms of England in a shield, except the half groat, penny and half penny of his second coinage, the first of which has a thistle, crowned; the second, a thistle and the legend TVEATVR. VNITA. DEVS. The half penny has only the thistle. On the reverse of the half penny of his first coinage are the cross and pellets.

Rarity.—All the coins of this king are common, except the half

crown with the legend EXVRGAT. DEVS, etc., which is very rare. Those coins with the feather over the shield are not so common as the others.

CHARLES I, 1625.

The coins of this king are very numerous, and a full description of the whole, and the circumstances under which many of them were coined, would alone occupy a larger volume than this. Many of them are very common, and may be distinguished by the legend, except the half penny, which is without it, but may be known by the rose on each side. The pieces which are rare are the Oxford crown, with a view of the city under the horse, and the Oxford penny, the twenty shilling piece, the Oxford coins with marks of the donors, and the pattern pieces of Briot, also the Aberistwith half crown and half penny; but of the first three are by far the rarest. Pieces with the mint marks of a negro's head, a castle, an anchor, rose, heart and crown are rare.

The obsidional or *siege pieces*, struck by the partizans of this monarch during the civil wars, are extremely interesting, and, with the exception of those coined at Newark, are all rare. They may be known by their shape from every other English coin, as well by their legends. Those of Newark are of a diamond or lozenge form, some octangular, and others of a shape that would puzzle a geometrician. Some have the rude representation of a castle; others, a crown; and many have the intials, C. R., and the legend DVM. SPIRO. SPERO. The siege pieces of Newark bear the dates 1645 and 1646, but most of the others, 1645.

(*To be continued.*)

SOURCES OF DELIGHT AND AMUSEMENT ARISING FROM THE STUDY OF COINS AND MEDALS.

[From a work published in London in 1784, now out of print.]

The principal and most legitimate source of pleasure arising from the science of medals is their workmanship. The motives of delight, which owe their origin to the other efforts of imitative art, will here likewise, of course, predominate. A philosophic enquiry into the prime causes of our pleasure arising from art, though it would make an admirable subject for a treatise, yet were in this place foreign and impertinent.

Not to enter then into that profound subject, this we know, that the most barbarous nations are more pleased with the rudest efforts of art than with the most admirable works of nature; and that, in proportion as the powers of the mind are large and various, such, likewise, are the pleasures which it receives from those superlative productions of art which can only be the offspring of vast genius. It follows that the creation of art alike pleases the most uninformed and the most cultivated mind.

In that creation the skill of the engraver of medals certainly deserves an honorable place. The offspring of his labor, to the porta-

bleness and high finishing of miniature painting, adds the relief and expression of sculpture.

The chief and most rational amusement, therefore, which springs from this study, originates from the strength and spirit, from the finish and beauty, which the engraver has displayed.

But, besides this, there are many other sources of entertainment in the science of medals. Such is the personal acquaintance which, so to speak, it gives us with all the great men of former times. Nothing can well be more amusing than to read history, with contemporary coins before you. It brings the actions, in a manner, before our eyes; and we sit, as in a theatre, with the actors before us.

Portraits have been always very interesting to mankind; and I doubt not but the love of them gave rise not only to painting, but to sculpture. Nowhere are they to be found so ancient, so numerous, so well preserved, as in medals. For a knowledge which, though unimportant, is yet, to our trifling natures, most interesting, namely, that of the form and features of those whose virtues and talent almost surpassed humanity, we are indebted to this science only. Lawgivers, monarchs, warriors, authors, all pass, as in a fairy review, before us.

> "The medal, faithful to its charge of fame,
> Through climes and ages bears each form and name;
> In one short view, subjected to our eye,
> Gods, Emperors, Heroes, Sages, Beauties lie."—*Pope.*

We even mark, with delight, the surly features of a Perseus or a Nero, and the lovely countenance of a Faustina, though their vices disgraced human nature.

To this satisfaction we may add that of beholding, in lively portraiture, the various dresses, manners and customs, religious and civil ceremonies; in short, *the very form and pressure of the time* of the ancient. Medals almost present an history of manners, an article but very lately cultivated, yet perhaps the most useful and interesting of all the provinces of history.

For the ineffable delight which the sheer antiquary takes in any rusty commodity, and defaced medals in particular, we shall not attempt to account, but will leave it to any author who may, in future times, think of writing a much-wanted treatise on the diseases of the human mind. Certain it is that men there are of this description, who look upon coins as the most ancient, and of course the more valuable, because the portraits, reverse and legends are almost totally obliterated, or at least so far as not to be recognizable by the most plodding assiduity and forlorn conjecture. That exquisite device for a tattered banner,

> "Quanto e piu lacera, tanto e piu bella,"

is their aphorism on the score of coins, whereas, to the man of just taste, the perfect preservation of a medal forms one of its principal qualities.

AN ESSAY ON THE PRINCIPALS OF NUMISMATICS.

Numismatics is the science of Coins and Medals.

A *coin* is a piece of metal stamped by authority of some government or central power, making it pass current as money. The advantage of coin as a medium of exchange is its durability. There are pieces more than two thousand years old so well preserved as to show only slight marks of abrasion. But a paper circulation has its advantages, also; as, for example, that of representing in a small compass, convenient for transportation from place to place, a large amount of money. Numismatics has nothing to do with paper currency; neither with other media of exchanges: as cattle, produce, etc., which the wants of newly settled countries have sometimes required. Nor yet with metals themselves, unless coined as above stated. We read in the book of Genesis of the purchase, by the patriarch Abraham, of a field and a cave, of Ephron, the Hittite, in the audience of the sons of Heth, as a burial place for his beloved Sarah, for which he weighed out four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. Bear in mind that the money employed in this transaction was not *coin*, but pieces of metal the value of which was measured by a certain standard of weight, at that time employed by merchants, and called a shekel, and at a period prior to the first issue of coined money by several hundred years.

The stamp made use of in coining is called a *die*. Most commonly *two* dies are required, and, consequently, two impressions, on opposite sides of the pieces, are thus made. The side containing the most important device is called the *obverse;* the other, the *reverse*. The space between the central device on the obverse and the edge is called the *exergue*. The prepared metal before coining is called a *planchet*.

Proof coins are those made from the original or master die, which is polished before using and struck on polished planchets. After a sufficient number of proofs are struck, the dies for coining the regular circulating pieces are multiplied by impressions taken from the hub employed in making the master die.

A *medal* is coined for the purpose of commemorating some event in history or as an award for personal merit. It is never designed to pass for money.

The *metals* which the different nations have at various periods employed for their coins are the noble metals—platinum, gold and silver—and the base metals—copper, lead, tin, iron, nickel and zinc—together with their alloys. The Russian government appears to have been the only one that has coined platinum money. They are of the denominations of three and six roubles—the rouble being of about the value of seventy-five cents, according to Webster, of our money—and was continued only a few years. Alloys with nickel appear to be a necessity; the exceeding hardness of this metal in its purity rendering it unsuited for mintage. Alloyed with copper or zinc, or both, the following countries have introduced it into their circulation,

viz.: The United States, Costa Rica, Peru, Switzerland, Belgium, and in 1869 Great Britain in her colony of Jamaica. Recently, some experiments have been made with the metal aluminum at the United States mint. In 1867, a pattern five cent piece was made in this metal. It, however, was not adopted by Congress, and, as it is alleged but a small number were coined, they are quite scarce.

The *shape* of the coin is mostly flat and circular, as involving the least amount of surface compatible with convenience in handling. This is not universally the case, however, the tempo of Japan being oval in shape; the itzebu of the same country is rectangular; the tekal of Siam and its subdivisions are nearly spherical, while numerous ancient coins depart from the commonly adopted shape, although less strikingly so than those just mentioned.

The *size* is commonly adopted with reference to the convenience of the public. This, be it remarked, is somewhat a matter of opinion. For instance, the Emperor Hien Fung, of China, caused coins to be made of the denomination of one hundred tsin, the weight of which is about seven ounces. The Roman æs is believed to have originally weighed a pound. On the other hand, the chuckaroon of Allahabad, in India, weighs but a few grains; a silver piece of the same place is still smaller, while a Siamese silver coin is stated to contain but a third of a cent in value. $.

DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

Cabinets of medals may be divided into three distinct sizes:

I. The large and complete cabinet, containing, or meant to contain, every issue of the mint, in every age and in every country. This, it may easily be seen, requires vast expense, and few but kings ought to attempt it. The King of France had the most opulent cabinet of this kind in existence, and which was calculated to have cost, since its institution till now, and when arrived at a point of perfection which it can but little exceed, £100,000 sterling. That of Dr. Hunter was perhaps one of the best private cabinets ever formed in this style, and is thought to have cost about £15,000.

II The smaller cabinet, the collector of which, confining himself to the forming of five or six sequences, as of middle and small Roman brass only, of English pennies, or groats, or any other particular series, considers other medals as out of his line of collecting, though he may purchase a few desolate ones, or belonging to other sets, to give variety to his selection. Such a cabinet may infer an expense of from $1000 or $1500 to $5000.

III. The least cabinet, or casket of medals, which may include all little collections of coins, from a hundred to a thousand or two. In

this not above a sequence or two can well be formed; but the *amateur* pleases his fancy by the miscellaneous insertion of any article which curiosity, or other motives, may incline him to procure. The expense, of course, depends entirely upon the pleasure of the proprietor.

To begin with the large and complete cabinet, it is to be observed that, in the grand division of ancient coins, as distinct from the modern, the Greek medals, of every denomination, can never be arranged by the metals, or sizes, like the Roman; for no series of any one metal, or size, can be found of this class in the most opulent cabinet. For this reason the civic coins, of all metals and sizes, are digested in alphabetical order, and the monarchic in chronological. The same rule is to be observed in the Roman consular medals, which are arranged in alphabetical series of the families, like those of the Greek cities. Indeed, of all ancient coins, the Roman imperial series is the only one admitting of being digested in sizes and metals. And even from it must be expected the *quinarii*, or very smallest coins, which are so scarce that the only sequence of this kind in the world is that belonging to the King of Spain, which was formed by a most skilful French medallist, and consists of all the metals.

(*To be continued.*)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

NEW BRUNSWICK.

1. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, wearing an open crown. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA. 1843" Rev.—A frigate with full rigging, but without sails. "NEW BRUNSWICK, ONE PENNY TOKEN."

2. C. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do., do. "HALF-PENNY."

Bronze proofs of these coins are often met with, and are of the highest order of workmanship.

3. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to the left, filleted. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA 1854." Rev.—Frigate, as in No. 1. "NEW BRUNSWICK, ONE PENNY CURRENCY."

4. C. Obv.—Same as No 3. Rev.—do., do., "HALF PENNY."

5. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, draped and laureated. "VICTORIA : D : G : BRITT : REG : F : D :" Rev.—Crowned date 1861 within a wreath, "ONE CENT, NEW BRUNSWICK."

6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. Rev.—do., do., 'HALF CENT."

There is also a variety of 5 and 6, bearing date "1864."

7. C. Obv.—Ship in full sail to right. "FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.' Rev.—"ST JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK HALF-PENNY TOKEN." Edge milled.

8. B. Obv.—Arms. DEPOSITORY OF ARTS." Rev.—"F. M'DERMOTT, IMPORTER OF ENGLISH, FRENCH & GERMAN FANCY GOODS, KING ST., ST. JOHN, N. B." Very rare.

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

ASIA.

COMANA.

The shield of Minerva with the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—KOMANQ, Victory carrying a palm branch on her left shoulder.

PANAGORIA.

Head of Pan, to the right.

Reverse.—PA, a bow and an arrow.—Æ.

AMASTRIS.

Shield of Minerva with the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—AMA⋚TPE∩, Victory carrying a palm branch on her shoulder.

SINOPE,

Head of Sinope, to the left.

Reverse.—⋚IN, an eagle with a fish in its talons in the field PO.—Æ.

Some have the figure of Victory on reverse.

CHALCEDON.

Laureated with head of Apollo, to the right.

Reverse.—KA. a lyre, between two olive trees.

ASSUS (IN MYSIA).

Head of Pallas, to the right.

Reverse.—A⋚⋚, a griffin—underneath a bunch of grapes.—Æ.

PERGAMUS.

Head of Pallas, to the right.

Reverse.—A figure of Victory, with a palm branch.

Some with this type have the name HEPTAMHN∩N.

ABYDOS.

A mask or full face.

Reverse.—An indented square.—AR.

ILIUM.

Helmeted head of Hector to the left.

Reverse.—I∧I, Minerva with a spear on her shoulder, in her left hand a distaff.—Æ.

SIGEUM.

Laureated head of Jupiter, to the right.

Reverse.—⋚ITE, an owl full faced; on the others the owl is looking to the right.

TEMNUS.

THMNOC, laureated head of a female.

Reverse.—THMNEITUN, Fortune, with her attributes.

PARIUM.

A full face with the tongue thrust out, and the head covered with serpents, probably the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—ΓAPI, a bull walking to the left.

Some have the reverse of a horse pacing.

CYME.

KY,EIIIKPATHΣ, forepart of a horse, to the right.

Reverse.—A vase with one handle.

Some have a vine stalk, with a bunch of grapes on the reverse.

(*To be continued.*)

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE SET OF UNITED STATES CENTS?

This query calls for more elucidation than the limits of a single number of this magazine will permit; but the frequent request from our subscribers to throw some light upon what constitutes a set of cents, has influenced us to open the columns of this journal for the publication of opinions of experts or others upon this vexed question. It is claimed by many able and intelligent collectors that a complete set of United States cents commences with the 1787 Fugio or Franklin copper piece, and embraces every known United States government issue of cents from that date to the latest issue of the United States Mint, including every known type or variety of copper, nickel or bronze. To our mind it is better to confine the limits of a set of cents to the copper issue of the United States Mint from its organization and first coinage (1793 to 1857), including, of course, all known types and distinct variations of coinage. By variations we should refer to the collection only of pieces struck by a change of either die caused by breakage, etc. In no case should cracks in a die form a variety, as this plan, if pursued, would lead to confuse the amateur and render coin collecting absurd in the extreme, requiring mathematical instruments to decide the length, breadth and position of a crack or hair line caused by some trifling imperfection of coinage. We have ample proof of this view of our subject by referring to a gentleman's collection, in this city, of pieces exhibiting a crack in coinage. This collector has gathered nearly fifty nickel five cent pieces, exhibiting an equal number of variations of these imperfections. We think the 1787 piece, although authorized by the United States, should be placed among colonial pieces, and the copper cents, 1793 to 1857, inclusive, form the first series of United States cents. Following this plan, the nickel coinage of cents, 1856 to 1864, inclusive, with varieties forming the second series; the bronze cents, 1864 to the latest issue of the mint, the third series, and so on with the different metals employed for all future coinage of cents. We should be pleased to publish the views of our readers on this subject, which would be a capital one for the consideration of a convention, which, sooner or later, must be called to settle the vexed questions of numismatology.

AN ECCENTRIC COOK.

There lives in the vicinity of Boston a venerable snd somewhat irascible gent who enjoys the euphonious and appetising surname of Cook, who has a fondness for old boots, coins and a patent cement for patching dilapidated leather, and who occupies an oblong establishment on a retired street in Boston, with far too much frontage for depth considering the value of a square foot of land in the Tri-Mountain city, in which decayed boots with initial-chalked souls occupies the greater portion of the shelves and floor. This eccentric Crispin rejoices in the name of coin dealer, finding time between his half soling and cement patching to buy and sell old coins and medals; also catalogues and conducts coin sales.

Within his little four by sixteen feet coin and shoe shanty he has erected a two and a halt feet counter upon which rests a case of coins. An upright case stands in the southeast corner of the front part of the store, in which medals, old silver spoons and broken jewelry are prominent. Thus our eccentrie knight of the awl represents a coin dealer of standing at the Hub. At various times, we have had occasion to send this Mr. Cook catalogues of sales for his especial and pecuniary benefit. We consequently sent him twenty-five catalogues for the sale of December 21. Judge of our surprise at receiving the package back, marked "Collect charges," and the following little bill and letter, which we give *verbatim:*

BOSTON, December 12, 1870.

MASON & Co.,

To HENRY COOK, DR.,

to expressage on Package from Phila. to Boston, .50

Recd. payment.

MASON & Co., PHILADELPHIA:

Sirs—I return you herewith, by express, a Package of catalogues, which I make no dought came from you, by express from Phila. and for which I paid the Adams & Co. fifty cents (50 c) for expressage.

You will please find the bill for the same enclosed herewith, and which you will please forward by return mail, and thus save me the trouble of presenting the same to the Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.

Very Truly, Yours, HENRY COOK.

We immediately enclosed the sum of fifty cents to Mr. Cook, and now wish to propound a few questions to the eecentrie gentleman for the benefit of all those who have dealings with this Boston numismatist and cobbler.

1. Is Henry Cook a coin dealer or cobbler?

2. If he elaims to be the former of these respectable callings, is he dealing justly with his numismatic patrons by refusing to distribute the catalogues of a coin sale?

3. If a cobbler, is he dealing justly with his old boot and shoe patrons by neglecting a most respectable trade to inflict injury to the honorable pursuit of coin collecting?

But what *boots* it? Every dish must have a *cook*, and if second-

handed boot repairers have an ambition to become distinguished as scientific men, there is no harm in the luxury unless they overstep the bounds of fairness, and passionately commit some act which offends good taste and reminds one particularly of *leather* as ever and anon he scans the box toes of his boots and ruminates on the posterior protuberance of the offender, wishing deucedly to put *this* and *that* together as a reminder of grievances too patiently borne.

N. B.—We omitted to mention the fact that we sent the hereinbefore described a package of the catalogues of the Fewsmith sale, which were *not returned.* We learned from a correspondent that the Fewsmith catalogues were sold in Boston for fifty cents per copy. We put *this* and *that* together also, and our deductions incline us to give Cook a fresh start in the leather business, but age and ignorance should be *kindly* considered and we forbear, lest additional kindness and consideration should be misconstrued

P. S.—Mr. Cook is politely informed that this article is not inserted as an advertisement, and if it has a tendency to increase his trade, he may be under no apprehension of a bill by express, marked, "C. O. D.," as we make no charge for this small editorial notice.

NUMISMATIC NEW YEAR.

The year 1871 opens auspiciously for the cause of numismatics. From present appearances, this year will be a lucky one for operations in the numismatic way. We have reports from various cities in the West of the intended organization of numismatic societies, and already an informal meeting has taken place at Cleveland, Ohio, with a view of establishing an association of this character. Cleveland has the honor of claiming a number of first class numismatists, who are devoted to the good cause. In our own city, a discussion has been in progress among several prominent collectors as to the feasibility of inaugurating a numismatic debating club, for the purpose of discussing doubtful points in the science of numismatology, comparing notes, weekly, as to the rise and progress of coin collecting, the exhibition of varieties and rarities of coinage, the detection of counterfeits, etc. In Springfield, Mass., the formation of a numismatic society has been warmly advocated, and we feel confident that this beautiful and thriving city can succesfully compete, in numismatics, with some of the larger and more noted organizations in other cities. Springfield furnishes this journal with as many subscribers as either the cities of New York or Boston. The coin trade flourishes throughout the country, but more particularly in the New England and Western States. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been, for the past year, apathetic concerning coins, and, during the latter part of 1870, prices for rare coins have shown a falling off in these three States; but this has been compensated for by the great influx of new customers and collectors from the Eastern and Western States. We feel confident that, at the present state of numismatics, it will not be long before the convention of numismatists,

as suggested in Vol. 1 of this magazine, will be an established fact. If the various collectors in the United States could meet in concert and select a suitable representative to unite in a convention to be held in this city, we can collect contributions sufficient to secure a fine hall and furnish the lodging and edibles for the crowd. The usefulness of the convention cannot be questioned. We trust our patrons and their friends will take action in the premises and communicate with us upon the subject. The Packer coin sale, now in prospective, will be the first large sale of the present year, and we feel no hesitation in predicting for it an entire success. The coin sales to come off and the increase of collectors and institutions devoted to numismatics, will not only verify our predictions of the numismatic New Year, but prove this to be indeed a year of numismatic news and successful scientific results.

BOSTON COIN SALE.

On the 22d of December, a coin sale of considerable interest took place at Leonard & Co.'s auction rooms, Boston, a sale that exhibited an increased interest, in that city, upon the subject of numismatics. We learned, on the 7th ult., by a small paragraph in a New York paper, that a sale of coins would occur in Boston, on December 8. Not having received a catalogue nor any notice of such sale, excepting as above, and the time being too short for us to attend in person, we addressed letters to several of our patrons in Boston, requesting particulars of the sale for publication. In answer, we received notice that the coin sale was postponed from the 8th to the 22d of December. On the 19th ult., several gentlemen in this city were fortunate enough to obtain catalogues, but, by some oversight of the managers of the sale, we failed to receive catalogues in time to notify our patrons, excepting in our immediate vicinity. It was a little unfortunate for us that the sale of Idler's collection was to come off on December 21, and it became a puzzling question how to attend both sales with satisfaction to our patrons. We soon obtained a competent representative to attend the New York sale, and hastily visited a number of prominent collectors, and obtaining a respectable quantity of bids, started for Boston on the morning of Tuesday, December 20, visiting a number of friends and patrons in New York Providence and Cambridge; arriving at the "Hub" in time on Wednesday to examine the collection of coins to be sold on the following day. We found several of the early numismatic birds on hand, who gave us a warm greeting, and without delay proceeded to investigate the collection exposed to public view. Here, indeed, was an admixture of foreign and American pieces. Nearly a thousand lots of coins and medals, from the early Roman, through the various series of American Colonials and United States Coins, Medals, Washington Pieces, to the latest issues of the different nations of the Old World. The more we investigated, the more convinced we became that the coins were of unusual interest and, what is of greater satisfaction, in fully

as good, and in many instances better, condition than described in the catalogue. It soon became a matter of wonder where all these interesting coins and medals came from. No one seemed to know the collection, and we were at a loss to recognise a single piece, until we happened to reach lot 715, the "Manly Medal." Here a flood of light was let in upon faulty discernment. We recognised the medal as one of the beautiful restrikes from the dies in possession of W. S. Lincoln & Son, London. Further investigation convinced us that the collection was from over the water, and, sure enough, the whole cabinet was the property of the above-named firm, transported to Boston for public sale.

On Thursday, at ten A. M., the second story of Leonard & Co.'s spacious auction house presented a pleasing sight in the character and intelligence of the audience collected to patronise this peculiarly interesting sale. We glanced around upon the handsome robust faces of the numismatists of the Hub and its vicinity with pleasurable emotions, and noticed one particular feature, an absence of youthful, boyish faces, such as predominate at similar sales in New York and Philadelphia. Here were solid representatives of the intelligence and wealth of New England, as fine and select an audience as was ever gathered together at any sale in America, not excepting the sales of the two M's—Mickley and Mackenzie. Among those present, we noticed Appleton, Colburn, Crosby, Elliot, of Lowell, Rhodes, Parmelee, of the Highlands, Pratt, Robinson, of Salem, Childs, Dawley, of the Custom House, Gillman, Hartshorn, Hart, Nichols, of Springfield, Ahlborn, Root, Barr, Fellows, Dr. Folwell, Wheeler and Powell. A large number of the audience were unknown to us, and, in addition to the buyers present, a goodly number from abroad was represented by the auctioneer. The auctioneer, Mr. Leonard, was in good spirits and full voice, and performed his part successfully for the owners, and to the satisfaction of the bidders. The only good, general outburst of mirth that occured during the sale was caused by the uttering of a single monosyllable by Mr. Pratt, who had kindly allowed the auctioneeer to knock down undesirable pieces at a rather high price, when bids could not be obtained. This plan had proceeded successfully with a large number of common coins, when a poor specimen of a New Jersey colonial coin was started by the auctioneer at fifty cents. Receiving no bid in advance, he called, as usual, the name of Pratt. The latter suddenly elevated his head, and, with an indignant expression, answered in a loud sonorous tone, "No!" rolling and lengthening out the monosyllable until the whole audience was convulsed with laughter. So unexpected and unusual was the answer, and so peculiarly indignantly uttered, that every person present, including the clerks and auctioneer, enjoyed the little episode greatly. The following list exhibits the character of the collection:

Roman Family Coins, 60 lots.

Roman Imperial Coins, 103 lots.

American Colonial Pieces, 85 lots.
American Silver and Copper Medals, 38 lots.
American Silver and Copper Coins, 53 lots.
Anglo-Saxon Silver and Copper English Coins, 198 lots.
Maunday Money, 16 lots.
English Silver Medals, 35 lots.
Bronze Papal Medals, 62 lots.
Cardinal and other Medals, 12 lots.
English and French Medals, 11 lots.
Fourteenth Century Medals, 13 lots.
Washington Pieces, 30 lots.
Admiral Vernon Pieces, 23 lots.
English Bronze Medals, 57 lots.
Miscellaneous Bronze Medals, 80 lots.
Series Nnmismatica, 6 lots.
Kings and Queens of England, 1 lot.
Foreign Silver Coins, 11 lots.
English Copper Coins, 26 lots.
English Tokens, 9 lots.
Provincial Tokens, 14 lots.
Roman Brass Coins, 34 lots.
Miscellaneous Tin Pieces. 14 lots.

The highest price obtained for a single piece was seventy dollars, it being lot 302, 1796 United States half dollar, described as "very fine," bought by Mason & Co. This half dollar is in uncirculated condition, and is richly worth one hundred and fifty dollars, it being, doubtless, the finest 1796 half dollar in the world. The next highest price obtained was twenty-five dollars for a United States proof set of 1846 (5 pieces), bought by the same party. The third highest price was twenty dollars for a New England shilling, bought by Mr. Pratt, of Boston. At the close of the sale, a small circular was distributed, containing an appendium of foreign proof copper coins and a few ancient British silver coins. This sale was the most successful one ever held in Boston, and will, doubtless, be followed by others of a similar character. We close this now too lengthy article by returning thanks for the warm reception and kind treatment we received at the hands of the Bostonians, and thank them kindly for allowing us an opportunity to secure nearly five hundred dollars' worth of the coins in the Lincoln sale. Not having as yet an official report of the result of the sale, we can only estimate it by our own catalogue, which figures up, in round numbers, one thousand three hundred dollars, or an average, for the nine hundred and ninety-one lots, of a fraction over one dollar and thirty-seven cents each lot. The total amount, counting separate pieces, is not far short of eighteen hundred dollars.

NOTICE.

Subscribers who have not paid up will be dropped from the books.

FIELD MEDAL.

A singular story is told of the reappearance of a gold medal which was made about three years ago, and was to be presented to Cyrus W. Field upon the completion of the Atlantic cable. Congress had appropriated five thousand dollars for the medal, which was of solid gold, elaborately carved and mounted, and inclosed in a pearl case mounted with gold. The Secretary of the Treasury received the medal from the mint, and sent it to President Johnson by his confidential secretary. The medal was missed shortly after this, and, upon inquiry being made, Mr. Johnson stated that he had returned it to the Treasury Department. Nothing could be heard of it at the Department, and it was finally believed that the medal had been stolen. Congress, therefore, made another appropriation of five thousand dollars for a duplicate, which was made and presented to Mr. Field about two years ago. It now turns out that the original medal was returned to the Treasury Department by President Johnson after he had viewed it, and the messenger gave it to Assistant Treasurer Tuttle, who locked it up in his private safe, and never heard the charge that it had been stolen, or of an appropriation for a new one. The medal remained in his safe until a week or two ago, when Mr. Tuttle inquired of General Spinner why Mr. Field did not come for his medal. General Spinner was greatly astonished, of course, at hearing all the facts in the case, and will retain the medal until some disposition of it be made by Congress.

REVIEWS, ETC.

We are forced to omit several notices of numismatic, philatelic and other scientific exchanges. Although we have increased our magazine from sixteen to twenty pages, the pressure of matter crowding us and already in print precludes the possibility of inserting notices already prepared in reference to our cotemporaries, and other articles of interest to our readers. We intended to acknowledge in this number the receipt of all subscriptions to date of publication, but absence from our post for a few days and the unusual accumulation of mail matter has prevented. All our patrons will please take the *intention* for the deed with the assurance that, in time, all orders and subscriptions will be faithfully attended to.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY SALE.

The sale of William Idler's collection, in New York, announced for the 21st ult., came off satisfactorily, the result being upwards of five hundred dollars. This sale will be remarkable for the high prices obtained for Continental and Colonial paper money. A Yorktown twenty dollar note, April 11, 1778, realized ten dollars and fifty cents, the highest price ever obtained at auction for a single specimen of the early paper money of this country. A New Jersey note sold for upwards of three dollars. The prices for other notes were proportionally high.

SALE OF THE PACKER COIN CABINET.

Upon a recent visit to New York, Mr. Cogan kindly afforded us an opportunity to examine the collection of coins and medals formed by the late Ex-Governor William F. Packer, and which will be offered at public auction about the middle of next month. This collection embraces nearly every variety of gold, silver and copper coins and medals, foreign and American, ancient and modern. We were particularly impressed with the quantity of pieces in this cabinet. A large number of foreign silver pieces lined the huge drawers in the large case to which we had access; a fine lot of the United States gold coinage; a large quantity of medals of American series; in fact, the collection of these pieces is remarkable for quantity and condition. We have seldom examined a more attractive series of medals. The choice coin in the whole cabinet, in our estimation, is the 1792 half dollar, in copper. The condition of this piece is perfect; in color, a natural olive bronze; sharp, well defined and evenly coined. There are plenty of rarities in all the different series, but our columns are too limited to enumerate, or do justice to any portion of the cabinet. This sale will create a furore in the coin trade, and enable collectors to enrich their collections with many a choice piece. The value of the cabinet we should judge to be about equal to the Fewsmith sale of October 4. We were not a little surprised, upon viewing the United States silver series, to find it, as a whole, quite indifferent, and not what it should be, considering the wealth and numismatic fervor of the former owner. As we are limited to fifty catalogues, only those who intend to bid can be supplied. We solicit early applications.

MULE PIECES.

If, in the whole range of numismatics, there is anything more annoying to a collector than a "mule piece," we should like to know it. Struck for no other purpose than to gratify a desire to perplex the amateur and to accumulate filthy lucre more rapidly than legitimately, they excite in our mind for the progenitors two feelings—pity and contempt; *pity* for the weak intellect that attempts to falsify history by the production of unique pieces; *contempt* for the motive which actuates the parties, viz.: *private gain.* We trust our government will prevent, in the future, the surreptitious manufacture of muled coins, and visit the authors of all such pieces with condign punishment. The proper trial pieces, or patterns struck in different metals, are all that we require, and the muling of the obverse of one pattern with that of a different one is reprehensible in the extreme. We have seen pieces thus muled that would puzzle the future historian to know whether we coined money for public use, or were engaged in an effort to produce enigmatical pieces for private amusement.

WANTED.

A February number, 1870, of this Magazine. One dollar paid for a clean copy. Address, T. T. Bates, Traverse City, Michigan.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. W. T.—Did you receive the 1806 cent?

S. H. A.—The Nova Constellatio silver coins were designed by the United States Confederation, and struck in Massachusetts, in 1783, as patterns for dollar and half dollar pieces. There are but three known, viz.: the 1000 mills and 500 mills, with legends on the reverse, and the 500 mills, with stars in place of the legend on the reverse. The two former are in possession of a gentleman of Philadelphia and the latter is owned by a gentleman in New York. The pieces of this description in the Mickley sale were doubtless copies. These patterns were the first of the silver series ever struck by the United States government. The originals have engrailed edges, and ring with that musical sound so peculiar to silver.

A. A. W., Cleveland.—Pleased to hear that the numismatists of your city are about to form a society. J. N. T. Levick, of New York, can furnish you with valuable hints of benefit to your proposed organization.

R. M., Toronto.—The 1804 United States dollar is conceded to be the most valuable American coin; but, in historical interest, the silver Nova Constellatios of 1783 far exceed the 1804 dollar, and ought to be of much greater value.

S. H., Jr., Boston,—The United States mint has a very inferior collection of their own coinage, notwithstanding a fund exists to improve and add to the cabinet. Young men in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, who have had limited facilities and means, can show a finer set of cents than any the mint possesses. The difficulty seems to be in a lack of knowledge by the parties in power of the fictitious value of rare and fine pieces. Private collectors will pay fifty dollars for a fine cent that would not command ten dollars at our mint. The finest set of United States cents in the world is in England, where many of our choice coins find a market, owing to the obtuseness or indifference of the United States Government officers, who show no disposition, either at public sales or at the stores of dealers, to purchase or compete for coins that ought to be in the Mint cabinet.

To Subscribers.—Our acknowledgments and thanks are hereby tendered to the following patrons for names and cash for Volume 5 of our magazine, viz.: F. D. A., E. A. G., E. S. N., M. L., A. M. W., N. R., L. W., L. P., J. H. G. G., H. M., G. W. W. W., S. T. (club of 25), A. S. J., T. R. T., Jr. (2 copies), P. B., W. W. S., L. M., Public Library (2 copies), V. R. A., T. T. W., C. K. W., W. F. S., J. T., D. A. R. (club of 10), E. F., Jr. (club of 5), I. I. S., G. N., C. A., C. C., R. A. M., J. E. C., G. M. E., F. J. M. (club of 10), S. S. C., D. L., J. H., W. P. C., H. F. A., N. A. M., A. H., T. D. W., G. F. S., D. L. H., W. S. L. & Son (England), H. P. A., J. E. R., T. H. T., C. A. V. S., A. H., T. H. T., J. F. T., J. L. P., Jr., T. T. B., J. M. D. Accept this general enumeration in lieu of a written reply. All others will be acknowledged next month or by mail.

P. S. AND OTHERS.—The only way to clean "old, black and rusty coins" is to boil them in oil and wash them in hot soap suds. Whatever rust or injury remains cannot, in safety to the condition of the coin, be removed. Avoid acid.

HOFFMAN.—Send on the naked bust for examination.

N. A. M.—Expect to reach a circulation of five thousand copies before many years. Not five hundred received thus far for the new volume. Thanks for your orders and clubs.

PHILADELPHIA SALES.

Two small sales of coins, minerals, shells and curiosities came off, in this city, at the auction rooms of Birch & Son, on the 19th and 21st of December. Both sales were well attended.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

COLOMBIAN STATES.—The Bath magazine announces the emission of two values of a set for the province of Cundinamaica, one of the States composing this postally fertile republic. The designs vary slightly as in the kindred stamps, but show eagle, arms, etc., in a fancy border. They are rectangular, lithographed on plain white paper, imperforate.

5 centavos, pale blue. 10 centavos, red.

We have seen the 10 centavos, red, but the name thereon is not Cundinamaica but CUNDINAMARCA. The error is perhaps a typographical one of our contemporary. The statement of the existence of a 5 c. red is also probably a mistake in the September number of *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, as the editor quotes that value in blue only last month.

ITALY.—We are reminded by its fortunate possessor, that our description of the specimen of the 15 c., last month, was too vague in its character for due appreciation of such a rarity. It is more broadly rectangular than are all the current values except the 20 c., which it closely resembles "with a difference." It is on pelure paper and exquisitely engraved, the head of the king coming out much more distinctly than in any of the values. On the top, in lieu of POSTALE, is ITALIA; on the left, FRANCO BOLLO, in full, and the unused value below. One sheet only was printed, either as an essay, or by error, and thrown away for burning as waste paper, two specimens only being saved from destruction.

ROUMANIA.—An ugly impression lies before us, viz.: the journal wrapper stamp for the Danubian Principalities. It is larger than the current adhesives, printed black on thin green paper, so closely one to another that each band will be 1½ inches wide only, by more than 16 inches long! Prince Charles's head in a central circle, with bead-

ing above and below, broken by POSTA and ROMANA, right and left, has DIARE PERIODICE in a straight band beneath. At each corner on the top is 1½ (bani), a waived pattern between, the same running up the sides, and the spandrels filled in with perpendicular lines. There are two shades, green and bluish-green. The 10 bani is now bright ultramarine.

SWITZERLAND.—In October last, took place the emission of correspondence cards for this republic. On the left upper corner is impressed a stamp, similar to that of the 5 c. envelope; on the right is a circle reserved for the stamp of the office whence issued. "Carte-correspondance" above; below, in German, French and Italian, this notice: "The reverse of this card is reserved for manuscript communications." Lower down, "Adresse—Indirizzo." The whole is surrounded by a floral framework, printed in color on very pale straw-colored cardboard. It would appear from the above notice, that printed advertisements, etc., allowed here on our cards, are prohibited in Switzerland. There are specimens in two colors and as many shades—pale and bright vermilion and carmine. The former color was used by accident, and the shades of the latter hue are now the sole ones employed.—*Philatelist.*

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—This republic has changed the color of the one penny stamp from red to black.

UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

Mrs. S. A. Allen's Hair Restorer, New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.

J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., oblong, 1 cent, black.

J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., star, 4 cents, blue.

A. B. & S., Matches, oblong, 1 cent, red.

Alexander's Matches, rect., 1 cent, brown; 1 cent, red

Thomas Allen, St. Louis Match Co., oblong, 1 cent, green.

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, red

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 2 cents, black; 2 cents, red.

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 4 cents, black; 4 cents, red.

Demas Barnes, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, black.

Demas Barnes & Co., New York, oblong, 1 cent, black; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, black.

Barber Match Co., Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue; oblong, 3 cents, black.

Geo. & O. C. Barber, Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue.

Barber & Peckham, Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue.

Bennett, Pieters & Co., Red Jacket Bitters, oblong, 4 cents, black; oblong, 6 cents, black.

Bousfield & Poole, Cleveland, rect., 1 cent, black; oblong, 3 cents, black, oblong; 3 cents, brown.

(*To be continued.*)

THE PACKER CABINET

OF

FOREIGN AND AMERICAN

GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER COINS, MEDALS, ETC.,

WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC SALE ABOUT THE

MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY,

AT THE SALES ROOMS OF

BANGS, MERWIN & CO.,

Nos. 594 and 596 Broadway, New York.

This collection includes many choice American and Foreign Coins and Medals, embracing series of American Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars, Dimes, Half Dimes, Colonials, Washington Pieces, Pattern Pieces, Cents and Half Cents; fine Gold Coins. Silver and Copper Medals; also, Silver Coins of England, France, Germany, Saxony, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Hungary, Bohemia, Breman, Hamburg, &c. A fine assortment of Tetradrachms, Imperial Gold and Silver Coins, Roman Family Coins, &c.

Catalogues will be ready about the 15th inst., and supplied by Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York, and Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different,	$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition,	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition,	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES PROOF SETS.

Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859,	$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860,	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each,	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870,	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows:

Priced Catalogue,	$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue,	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for $2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

☞ Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.